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General Assembly
Seventy-second session

Official Records

First Committee
29th meeting
Tuesday, 5 June 2018, 10 a.m.
New York

Chair: Mr. Bahr Aluloom ..... (Iraq)

The meeting was called to order at 11.35 a.m.

Agenda item 5 (*continued*)

Election of the officers of the Main Committees

Election of the Chair and the Bureau of the First Committee

The Chair: In accordance with rules 99 (a) and 103 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, this meeting has been convened to elect the Chair and other officers of the First Committee for the seventy-third session of the General Assembly.

We shall first take up the election of the Chair of the First Committee for the forthcoming seventy-third session. Members will recall that, pursuant to decision 68/505, of 1 October 2013, the Chair of the Committee is to be nominated by the Group of Eastern European States. In that regard, I understand that an agreement has been reached by the Group to nominate His Excellency Ambassador Ion Jinga of Romania for the post of Chair for the seventy-third session.

Ambassador Jinga is an accomplished diplomat of his country and is the Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations. Prior to his current assignment, he served as Ambassador of Romania to Belgium, as well as Ambassador of Romania to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. He was also Director-General for European Union Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania.

Here at the United Nations, Ambassador Jinga has co-chaired the intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform. He chaired the Group of Governmental Experts on the Operation and Further Development of the United Nations Report on Military Expenditures, the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on Population and Development. He is the current Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission and of the Group of Francophone Ambassadors to the United Nations.

Since there are no other nominations from the Group of Eastern European States, may I take it that, in accordance with rule 103 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and established practice, the First Committee wishes to dispense with the secret ballot and to elect by acclamation Ambassador Jinga of Romania as the Chair of the First Committee for the seventy-third session of the General Assembly?

It was so decided.

The Chair: On behalf of all delegations, I warmly congratulate Ambassador Jinga on his election. I am certain that he will receive the support and cooperation of each and every delegation in executing his mandate to guide the work of the First Committee at the seventy-third session.

We will now proceed with the election of other officers of the First Committee for the seventy-third session of the General Assembly, beginning with the three Vice-Chairs. The Secretariat has received one nomination. It is my pleasure to inform the Committee that Guyana has nominated Ms. Marissa Edwards.

Bearing in mind rule 103 of the rules of procedure and recalling paragraph 16 of General Assembly

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decision 34/401, may I take it that the Committee wishes to dispense with the secret ballot and to elect the candidate by acclamation?

It was so decided.

The Chair: With respect to the position of Rapporteur, the Group of Asia-Pacific States has nominated Ms. Muna Zawani Md Idris of Brunei Darussalam. May I take it that the Committee wishes to elect her by acclamation as the Rapporteur of the First Committee at its seventy-third session?

It was so decided.

The Chair: On behalf of the Committee, please allow me to express warm congratulations to Ms. Marissa Edwards of Guyana on her election as Vice-Chair and to Ms. Muna Zawani Md Idris of Brunei Darussalam on her election as Rapporteur of the First Committee.

With regard to the remaining vacancies from among the Group of African States and the Group of of Western European and other States, the Committee will hold elections upon notification by the Groups concerned.

I now give the floor to the Chair-elect of the First Committee at its seventy-third session, Ambassador Ion Jinga.

Mr. Jinga (Romania): I am deeply honoured by the confidence with which States Members of the United Nations have entrusted me today. I see the election to the position of Chair of the First Committee as recognition of Romania's long-term commitment to multilateralism and of its solid track record in the First Committee, as to date my country has held the position of Vice-Chair of this body five times — in 1972, 1983, 2002, 2003 and 2014. I would also like to express my gratitude to the Group of Eastern European States for its endorsement.

The First Committee is tasked with seeking solutions to threats that affect international peace and with facilitating cooperation on disarmament. That particularly high responsibility also comes with significant expectations, thereby making the work of the Committee not an easy task. Romania has long-standing experience as an honest broker and a promoter of peace through effective diplomacy. As a State party to all major multilateral arms limitation and disarmament agreements, my country has proved its professionalism and dedication in facilitating the finding of solutions to issues that pose a challenge the international community. As a founding member of the Conference on Disarmament, we have participated in all its activities and held the presidency of the Conference in 1997. As a co-sponsor of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), Romania has actively supported its implementation by all States. In 2004 and 2005, we held the chairmanship of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004).

In addition, since 1998, Romania and Germany have co-authored the resolution on objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures, in a system of biennial cycles. On the basis of the expertise acquired through Romanian diplomacy in that field, during 2016 and 2017 I had the privilege of chairing a Group of Governmental Experts that was entrusted by the Secretary-General with the preparation of a report (see A/72/293) on military expenditures and on making proposals for further action. The General Assembly subsequently endorsed the report.

Romania constantly voiced its support for the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as a foundation of the international legal regime of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament and as a means of promoting international peace and security. Moreover, in 2015 Romania was elected by consensus for the second time as Chair of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization.

In today's world, the First Committee has a duty to operate to the highest possible standards. Romania will continue to make concrete contributions to the activities of the First Committee in full respect of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. We will always maintain that approach within all roles and United Nations bodies in which Member States may honour us through their vote.

I look forward to actively engaging with all members during the upcoming session of the First Committee. I would like to reaffirm my intention to act in full transparency as an honest broker in order to identify the best possible ways to achieve our common goal of preserving peace. Once again, I thank members for their trust and I look forward to our working together as we have done to date on many other occasions.

The Chair: Before adjourning this meeting, on behalf of all delegations, I would like to thank the members of the Bureau of the First Committee at the seventy-second session, particularly Vice-Chairs Ms. Terje Raadik of Estonia and Mr. Georg Sparber of Liechtenstein, as well as the Rapporteur, Mr. Martin

Ngundze of South Africa, for their remarkable contributions in guiding the work of the Committee to a successful conclusion. I would also like to use this opportunity to extend heartfelt thanks once again to all delegations for their support and cooperation throughout my tenure as the Chair of the First Committee at its seventy-second session.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.